Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation and purification of protein(s) ~~such as viral antigenic proteins, other recombinant therapeutic proteins, characterized in that the purification is carried out by a novel technique termed as~~ using Hydrophobic Interaction Matrix (HIMAX) technology ~~which is as herein described and recovering the said protein (s).~~ comprising:

(a) lysing, in the absence of a detergent, vector cells expressing said protein(s) to obtain a cell lysate;

(b) centrifuging the cell lysate between 1000g and 10,000g to form a supernatant portion and solid portion;

(c) obtaining the solid portion from step (b) wherein the solid portion comprises the protein(s);

(d) suspending the solid portion in a buffer of pH 6 to 7. 5;

(e) forming an insoluble matrix after step (d) by the addition of divalent ionic salt having a concentration ranging from 0.2% to 10% with counter ions of either phosphate, chloride and/or acetate solution to the suspension;

(f) subjecting the insoluble matrix to centrifugation optimally to form a pellet;

(g) subjecting the pellet from step (f) to a repeated desorption process to release the protein(s) from said insoluble pellet by using either Tris buffer of pH 8. 0 to 8.5 or Tris buffer with EDTA at pH 7.0 to 8.0; and

(h) recovering the protein(s) through hydrophobic chromatography.

2. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 wherein [[the]] said protein(s) is/are ~~made to be~~ expressed in ~~the vectors like prokaryotic cell or eukaryotic cell like E.Coli,~~ yeast ~~etc.~~

3. (Currently amended) [[The]] A process ~~as claimed in the preceding claims wherein the said process~~ for the preparation and purification of protein(s) by using Hydrophobic Interaction Matrix (HIMAX) technology ~~comprising~~ comprising:

(a) [[the]] lysing vector cells expressing said protein(s) ~~are subjected to lysis in the absence of a detergent~~ to obtain a cell lysate;

(b) subjecting the cell lysate ~~of steps as~~ to centrifugation ranging from 1000g to10,000g ;

(c) obtaining ~~a solid~~ pellet portion from step (b) ~~by decantation~~ wherein the ~~said solid~~ pellet portion ~~comprising~~ comprises [[the]] said proteins;

(d) suspending the ~~said solid~~ pellet portion in a buffer of pH 6 to 7. 5 having divalent ions ranging from 0.2% to 10% and counter ions of either phosphate, chloride and/or acetate ~~optimally treating this with~~ wherein a detergent is not used ~~such as herein described to solubulize the minute impurities if any~~ ; and

(e) eluting said protein(s) with Tris base salts of high basicity ~~as a part of HIMAX technology, the said protein (s) is/are captured by the addition of divalent ionic salt having concentration ranging from 0.2% to 10% with counter ions of either phosphate, chloride and/or acetate solution to form an insoluble matrix;~~

~~(f) subjecting the said insoluble matrix for centrifugation optimally to form pellets; and~~

~~(g) (f) subjecting repeated desorptions process to release the bound antigen from insoluble matrix/pellets by using either Tris buffer of Ph 8. 0 to 8.5 or Tris buffer with EDTA at Ph 7.0 to 8.0;~~

~~(h) finally recovering the said proteins through ultrafiltration, chromatography on colloidal silica, hydrophobic and or affinity chromatography, ion exchange, diafiltration, sterile filtration or a combination thereof.~~

4. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in any of the preceding claims~~ of claim 2, wherein [[the]] said protein is a viral antigen.

5. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 4 wherein ~~inactivation of~~ the viral ~~antigens is carried out by a known manner~~ antigen is inactivated before said ~~subjecting to~~ desorption ~~(by chromatography) step~~ process.

6. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in claims 1 to 3~~ of claim 5, wherein [[the]] said protein is one other than a viral antigen.

7. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 6 wherein said inactivation step is avoided before desorption.

8. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in the preceding claims~~ of claim 7, wherein the chromotographically purified fractions containing the ~~desired~~ protein(s) are pooled for diafiltration ~~and or~~ and/or for sterile filtration.

9. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in the preceding claims~~ of claim 8, wherein the divalent ionic salt is a salt of divalent ~~cations is preferably Zh~~ cation Zn, ~~ca~~ Ca, or Mg, or a combination thereof.

10. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in step (d) of claim 3 wherein the detergent is non-ionic detergent.

11. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in ~~step (d) of~~ claim 3, wherein the detergent is not used for the preparation and purification of protein(s).

12. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in step (h) of claim 3 wherein ultra filtration is carried out using membrane filters of 100-300K molecular weight cut off.

13. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in step (h) of claim 3 wherein the ion-exchange matrices is selected from anionic exchange resins such as sulphated cellulose/DEAE matrices.

14. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in the preceding claims~~ of claim 8, wherein the said proteins are highly purified without the loss of biological activity.

15. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein ~~the~~ contaminants ~~like nucleic acid fragments etc., does~~ do not interfere with/affect the [[said]] process of preparation and purification of [[the]] said proteins.

16. (Currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in any of the preceding claims~~ of claim 2, wherein said proteins are viral antigens, recombinant proteins, and/or biotherapeutic proteins ~~etc., are simultaneously prepared and purified~~.

17. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein said proteins are simultaneously prepared and purified.

18. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein said proteins are selected from the group consisting of: Rabies antigen, Hepatitis A antigen, Diptheria toxoid and Tetanus toxoid.